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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL MCGRAW AWARDS
\$250,000 TO THE AARP FOUNDATION
TO IMPLEMENT ITS "ELDERWATCH " PROGRAM**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced a \$250,000 award to be given to the AARP Foundation to implement its "ElderWatch" program. The AARP Foundation is AARP's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age. It leads to positive social change and delivers value to those 50 and older with emphasis on those at social and economic risk.

West Virginia ElderWatch will develop a statewide network connecting law enforcement agencies, adult protective services, and others who have day-to-day contact with seniors in an effort to reduce crimes and exploitation of seniors.

West Virginia ElderWatch will also protect older West Virginians from financial exploitation through the collection of data, extensive outreach and education, and the provision of technical assistance and appropriate intervention. West Virginia ElderWatch will provide information to, and coordinate with, the state's law enforcement offices, adult protective services, mental health agencies and other organizations assisting older West Virginians.

The funds presented to the West Virginia ElderWatch by the Attorney General's Office are from the settlement reached in a multi-state class action BusPar anti-trust litigation. West Virginia along with 34 other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, sued Bristol Myers Squibb claiming it prevented generic forms of BuSpar from being sold to consumers, thus keeping the price of the brand-name drug BuSpar unlawfully inflated. BusPar is a commonly prescribed ant-anxiety drug which was widely prescribed to among older Americans. By way of the implementation of ElderWatch, the funds from the BusPar settlement are being returned to a segment of the community which was directly affected by the actions of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.

"This award represents the continued efforts of the Attorney General's Office to protect older citizens of West Virginia," McGraw stated.

"Consumer fraud is big business in West Virginia, and we seem to have an endless supply of crooks who target and prey upon our older citizens. That's why we are eager to start AARP ElderWatch in West Virginia with Attorney General McGraw," said Scott A. Adkins, Project Director of ElderWatch. "As criminals become more sophisticated in their crimes, so must we in fighting them. This new program does that -- by providing critical information, educating seniors and linking those involved in fighting fraud," continued Adkins.

"West Virginia ElderWatch will be a resource for older West Virginians of today and tomorrow." McGraw added.

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